THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 2nd December 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Tour of Ministers in Srikakulam district.

* 206 *Q.*—SRI K. GOVINDA RAO: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Ministers who toured Srikakulam district in the past three months;

(*b*) how many of them visited Kurupam for election purposes; and

(*c*) what is the amount spent for each of those Ministers from the State Exchequer?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Three Ministers were in the new Srikakulam district during the past three months but none of them visited the district for election purposes as alleged in the question.

" (*c*) The total amount drawn by these Ministers from the State Exchequer for these visits was Rs. 198.

Rs. 48 by Minister for Public Works.

Rs. 137 by Minister for Rural Welfare, and

Rs. 13 by Minister for Education."

SRI K. GOVINDA RAO :—" ఈ మంత్రులందరు పార్వతీపురం ఉపఎన్నిక సమయంలో ఆ ప్రాంతాలకు వచ్చారని, కాంగ్రెస్‌కు ఓట్లు ఇవ్వవలసినదని బహిరంగ సభలలో ప్రచారం చేశారని ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారు ఎరుగుదురా! పార్టీ ప్రచారానికి గాను ప్రభుత్వ డబ్బు వినియోగింపబడుతున్నదని ప్రజలు ఉద్దేశపడుతున్నారనే విషయం వారికి తెలుసా?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, I will answer the question that has been put but I was not able to follow the subsequent development of the hon. Member's argument. The question is whether I know that the Hon. Ministers did ask the people to vote for the Congress during the by-election. It is quite possible, Sir,—though I cannot say for certain—that when they are there on business they might be doing these things also but, to the point in the question whether they went there for election purposes, I say 'No'."

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" ఎలెక్షన్ సమయం లోనే కురుపాం (పార్వతీపురం) నియోజక వర్గానికి ముగ్గురు మంత్రులు ఎందువల్ల వెళ్ళ వలసివచ్చినదో చెబుతారా ? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I would request my young Friend to tell me in English. He may be taken to have put the question in Telugu but let him tell me in English."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" ఇంగ్లీషులో మాట్లాడడం జరుగదని శ్రీ రాజగోపాలాచారిగారికి విన్నవించుకొంటున్నాను. నా ప్రశ్నను తిరిగి చెబుతాను. ఎలెక్షన్ సమయంలోనే ముగ్గురు మంత్రులు ఎందువల్ల కురుపాం వెళ్లవలసి వచ్చిందో తెలియజేస్తారా ? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" No inference should be drawn from the fact that three Ministers were there during a particular month on various dates when a by-election was also expected there; but Ministers have to go in connection with their work and while they are there they talk to people also, I do not think that we can lay down a proposition, either by convention or otherwise, that when there is a by-election no Minister should go to that area but only the Opposition should be allowed to go."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, May I know what was the kind of work on which these Ministers went and whether the Chief Minister is aware of the fact that in a newspaper called the 'Congress', which is the official newspaper of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, it was stated that these Ministers made election tours, visited several villages and made election speeches? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, I do not think that I can be either responsible for, or answer questions relating to statements made by newspapers in the locality but, if information is wanted as to what my colleagues did on various dates I can give them. But, I would like to know what exactly is wanted because I have quite a long list of facts here."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, the Hon. the Chief Minister was pleased to state that they went on their work and incidentally talked about the election."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Yes."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Now, I would like to know what was their work."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am thankful, Sir, for this inquisition. I hope that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, when he becomes a Minister, will welcome such questions."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I will welcome them, Sir."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The Hon. Minister for Public Works was in Srikakulam district on the

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16th October and he departed from that district on the 18th of October. The halt between these two points of time was not for election purposes and he did not claim travelling allowance or daily allowance for the halt on the 17th of October. I am giving these particulars in stages. The Hon. Minister for Rural Welfare was there on the 3rd of October and left on the 6th of October. He halted at Kuruppam for lunch. The Hon. Minister for Education was there between the 16th and 23rd of October. He halted at Kuruppam from 6 p.m. to 7-30 p.m. During that time he received deputations from representatives of neighbouring villages and Harijans for opening fair price shops, and also regarding the Nagavalli Project and opening of new Schools. He visited Kuruppam on the 17th of September between 10 p.m. and 10-30 p.m. He could not avoid that visit as the Raja of Kuruppam had died recently and he was in honour bound to pay a visit and call on the mother.

" Sir, I will take about fifteen minutes if I were to give all details about what each Minister did. If the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is really thinking that we used this sum of Rs. 198 for election purposes, I would deprecate such an assumption. I can give him a long list giving all details as to what the Ministers did."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" I am sorry, Sir, that my question has not been answered. I asked what was the work on which they started from here. It is quite another thing to say that if they go, people certainly come and they make certain representations. I would like to know what was the work which carried these three Ministers all the way from Madras to that long distance just before a by-election? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I have given the hon. the Leader of the Opposition the dates. ' Just before ' is not right! "

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" It was only ten days before and we call it ' just before '."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" In a general way, I can say that they started on these tours because they are Ministers and they must be in touch with affairs all over and the hon. the Leader of the Opposition can see that, between the dates that I have given for the arrival and departure of each Minister, there was no conspiracy to go there for election work. Moreover, the Minister for Public Works is from Cuddapah. He had nothing to do with that constituency and was not likely to have been of much use at the by-election there. Really, I would ask the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to sympathise with my difficulty in reading all the tour programmes but, if he really requires it, I will give it to him in writing as to what exactly was done by each Minister. As I have said before in reply to the general question, the object was to keep in touch with affairs all over. For instance, so far as the Public Works

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Minister is concerned, I can read out from his tour programme that he had visited the Vamsadhara Project site, went on to Nevagam or whatever the name of that place is, and held a meeting in regard to the Nagavalli right channel. He also visited the Dowleshwaram canals and the Public Works Department workshops. This is generally what I may call technical work from the Public Works Minister's tour programme.

10-40 a.m. By that time, the Hon. Minister for Education arrived at Bobbili on the 16th September. He went there in connection with a High School. He received deputations about the high school and sites for Harijans. He gave interviews at Parvathipuram and received deputations from various people about the Nagavalli Project, being a Minister in the Cabinet. He visited schools and Harijan pettas near about Narasipur. He declared open a high school—a district board secondary school. He addressed also the Parvathipuram Bar Association and the panchayat board also met him. By the time the Hon. Minister for Education arrived at Kuruppam, the nomination papers of candidates had not even been filed. I think, Sir, this is enough for the present."

Sri G. LATCHANNA :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister for Public Works visited Parvathipuram Constituency which is in no way connected with Vamsadara Project, and the Hon. Minister for Rural Welfare visited Parvathipuram area though there is no development scheme working in that constituency and there carried on an election campaign in favour of the Congress candidate in that area. Is the Hon. Chief Minister aware that the Hon. Ministers including the Hon. Minister for Education while addressing public meetings asked the people to vote for the Congress, the party in power?

" Is it not a fact that the Ministers did tell the people that by voting for the Congress only they could get all the things done and if not, nothing could be done?

" Is it not also a fact that the Hon. the Chief Minister had given a telegram to the Rani Saheba of Kuruppam stating, " Sanjiva Reddi told me your sentimental fears. God is above to protect us all. Please allow Chinna Saheb to file nomination."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member should not bring in all these things."

Sri G. LATCHANNA :—" The whole question relates to the fact whether Ministers had used Ministerial influence in the by-election of Parvathipuram or not."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" I will not allow the second part of the question. The Hon. the Chief Minister may answer the first part of the question."

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am not able to remember the first part of the question. I was trying to follow what he was saying. But without remembering the

first part of the question, let me say that we are political bodies and we are entitled to use every opportunity for furthering our own interests. But if the allegation or suspicion is that we used public money for purposes of carrying on our propaganda it is entirely wrong."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The Hon. the Chief Minister has said that they can use their power to further their own interests."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" No, no."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" It means that."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Will the Hon. the Chief Minister repeat his answer? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I could not have said, ' I used the power '. If I said, ' I used the power ', he can go to an Election Tribunal immediately."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to repeat his answer? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I cannot remember what I said in answer to a supplementary question. The reporters will be able to say that."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Does the Hon. the Chief Minister consider that the use of Ministerial position to further the interests of the political party to which they belong is consistent with political morals?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The position of Ministers as Ministers is not and cannot be used for that purpose. But we cannot ignore facts. When I am influencing a body of people, my previous history, all my previous history has its effect; my present office has its effect, but what is relevant is, I do not use that position or that power."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" బై ఎలక్షన్ సమయంలోనే మంత్రులకు ఆయా ప్రాంతాలలో పని హెచ్చుగా ఉంటుందా ? అయినట్లైతే దానికి కారణమేమని అడుగుతున్నాను ? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" All the assumptions on which the question is based are wrong. Did I go for election purposes? Or, can the Hon. Minister for Public Works who is from Cuddapah have a great influence there? "

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" మీరు వెళ్లారని కాదు చెప్పేది. ఆ వెళ్లిన మంత్రులకే ఆ ప్రాంతాలలో పని హెచ్చుగా ఉన్నదా అని అడుగుతున్నాను ? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, the result of the election shows that none of these things could have any effect. The result of the election was that there was an overwhelming vote for the party that succeeded. (cheers) If it is a matter of interpellations and arguments . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Next question please."